

that would have addressed many of these concerns by making the resolution more narrow and precise in scope. Unfortunately, this amendment was not passed in Committee, and I was not allowed to offer my alternative on the floor today.

Thus, I face what will certainly be the most important vote I will ever cast with a very heavy heart, knowing that my vote could put our men and women in harm's way. While the resolution we are voting on today does not address all of my concerns, it has come a long way since the early days of the Administration rhetoric. Just two months ago, President Bush and his advisors were talking about using force first, rather than last, and taking unilateral action to facilitate regime change in order to confront an imminent threat from Iraq. While the President has not convinced me that Iraq is a clear and present danger to the security of the United States, today, as reflected in this resolution, the President is committed to working with the United Nations to build a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein. Furthermore, knowing the historical background of Saddam Hussein, only a resolution that gives the President the credible threat of force will give America and the world a chance to disarm him without engaging in war. Thus, I will support House Joint Resolution 114.

Mr. Speaker, if force proves necessary, we must forge a coalition of other countries supporting and participating with our armed forces to the greatest extent practical. A formidable, multilateral alliance, similar to the one assembled during the Persian Gulf War, is necessary before, during and after the war, and will help continue the momentum in the international war on terrorism. The United States should resolve the situation using all of the political and diplomatic resources at our disposal, keeping in mind that military action is sometimes the only option available.

Although I will support this resolution, I still have a number of concerns: this resolution will give the President broad authority to make war form any reasons well beyond disarming Saddam Hussein of his weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and the resolution's standard to justify going to war is too low.

In an attempt to address this and other concerns, I offered an amendment in the House International Relations Committee, similar to a proposal authored by Senators BIDEN and LUGAR, which makes perfectly clear that the goal of the resolution is disarmament. To that end, the amendment would have limited the President's war-making power by focusing the authorization to use military force on securing the dismantlement of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, not human rights violations, prisoners of war, or the failure to return property as called for under the resolution we debate today.

In addition, my amendment emphasized the importance of international support and encouraged the President to exhaust diplomatic efforts at the UN, while reserving the right to act unilaterally if the UN fails to approve a new resolution requiring the dismantlement of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction in a timely fashion.

Lastly, the amendment would have raised the standard for justification of going to war by elevating the risk assessment from "continuing" to "grave". The U.S. faces many continuing risks but they do not warrant the use of military force. By requiring the President to

inform Congress that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction pose a "grave" risk to the United States, the amendment raised the standard which must be met before placing American men and women in harm's way, something President Bush's resolution fails to do. Remember, President Bush warned that Iraq is a "grave and gathering" danger during his excellent speech to the United Nations General Assembly on September 12, 2002.

Unfortunately, as I mentioned earlier, my amendment did not pass the House International Relations Committee and it was not made in order by the Rules Committee.

The authority this Congress is about to give to the President must be used judiciously. After all, war is the ultimate failure of diplomacy. I expect that after this important authority is granted, Congress and the President will closely work together.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 574, the Chair postpones further consideration of the joint resolution until the legislative day of Wednesday.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for October 7 and today on account of official business.

Mr. KANJORSKI (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today until 2:00 p.m. on account of official business in the district.

Ms. SOLIS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. FERGUSON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SCHIFF) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 150. Concurrent resolution welcoming her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand on her visit to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until today, Wednesday, October 9, 2002, at 10 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9540. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his request to make funds available for the Department of the Treasury's Counterterrorism Fund; (H. Doc. No. 107-271); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

9541. A letter from the Deputy Congressional Liaison, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Regulation Z; Truth in Lending [Docket No. R-1130] received October 7, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9542. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the listing of all outstanding Letters of Offer to sell any major defense equipment for \$1 million or more; the listing of all Letters of Offer that were accepted, as of June 30, 2002, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

9543. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Passenger Vessels, Portland, Maine, Captain of the Port Zone [CGD01-02-114] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received October 4, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9544. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Lower Mississippi River, Southwest Pass Sea Buoy to Mile Marker 96.0, New Orleans, LA [COTP New Orleans-02-005] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received October 7, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9545. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Handling of Class 1 (Explosive) Materials or Other Dangerous Cargoes within or Contiguous to Waterfront Facilities [USCG-1998-4302] (RIN: 2115-AE22) received October 7, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9546. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Chesapeake Bay, Calvert County, Maryland [CGD05-01-071] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received October 4, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9547. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Shipping; Technical and Conforming Amendments [USCG-2002-13058] (RIN: 2115-AG48) received October 4, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9548. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department